

MONTANA ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

January 2004

UNEMPLOYMENT BY COUNTY

Not seasonally adjusted

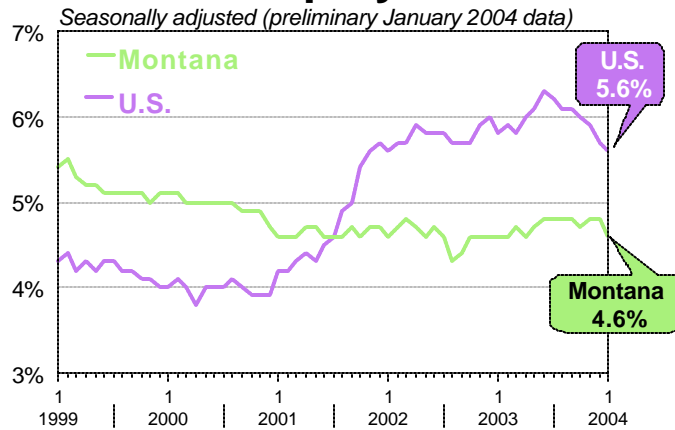
	Jan. 2004*	Jan. 2003
UNITED STATES	6.3%	6.5%
MONTANA	5.6%	5.7%
Cascade **	5.2%	5.3%
Missoula **	4.7%	5.0%
Yellowstone **	4.0%	4.0%
Beaverhead	3.9%	4.8%
Big Horn	14.9%	20.1%
Blaine	6.6%	6.9%
Broadwater	6.1%	5.8%
Carbon	4.2%	5.0%
Carter	2.3%	2.1%
Chouteau	3.1%	3.3%
Custer	5.1%	5.1%
Daniels	2.7%	3.3%
Dawson	4.1%	3.4%
Deer Lodge	8.3%	7.5%
Fallon	2.6%	3.5%
Fergus	7.6%	7.9%
Flathead	8.1%	7.3%
Gallatin	3.1%	3.1%
Garfield	3.1%	5.0%
Glacier	13.5%	12.1%
Golden Valley	10.0%	7.8%
Granite	9.0%	8.2%
Hill	4.2%	4.2%
Jefferson	5.4%	5.0%
Judith Basin	6.7%	6.5%
Lake	8.5%	8.4%
Lewis & Clark	4.8%	5.0%
Liberty	3.6%	4.0%
Lincoln	15.6%	18.4%
McCone	3.6%	4.3%
Madison	5.6%	6.0%
Meagher	8.4%	8.0%
Mineral	10.7%	11.5%
Musselshell	9.0%	8.6%
Park	5.4%	5.4%
Petroleum	5.7%	7.9%
Phillips	6.6%	6.7%
Pondera	6.4%	4.9%
Powder River	6.5%	4.5%
Powell	6.2%	6.6%
Prairie	8.9%	6.2%
Ravalli	7.5%	7.0%
Richland	3.6%	5.9%
Roosevelt	7.6%	7.9%
Rosebud	6.8%	6.8%
Sanders	10.9%	10.1%
Sheridan	4.8%	4.2%
Silver Bow	5.9%	6.1%
Stillwater	3.4%	3.2%
Sweet Grass	3.1%	2.9%
Teton	4.5%	4.2%
Toole	2.7%	2.4%
Treasure	5.1%	6.9%
Valley	4.0%	4.2%
Wheatland	5.5%	6.3%
Wibaux	3.8%	3.5%

* January 2004 rate preliminary

** Cascade=Great Falls MSA
Missoula= Missoula MSA
Yellowstone=Billings MSA

JANUARY 2004 HIGHLIGHTS

Unemployment

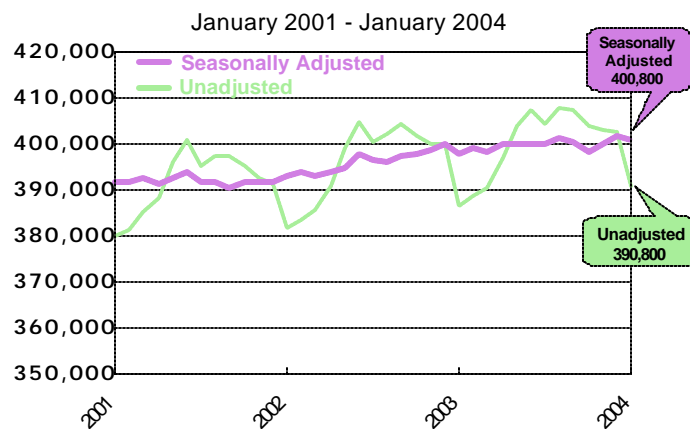


Montana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be lower than the U.S. rate. The state's January unemployment rate of 4.6 percent was 1.0 percentage point lower than the nation's.

Earnings

Average weekly earnings for Montana's private sector production workers were up 4.3 percent over the year for January, outpacing the 1.9 percent over-the-year increase in U.S. inflation.

Nonfarm Employment Series



Montana's **seasonally-adjusted**, nonagricultural payroll employment was up about 3,100 jobs (0.8 percent) over the year for January. The largest over-the-year gains were in private education & health services, government and leisure & hospitality.

CENSUS 2000

Who makes up Montana's current generations?

The Baby Boom Echo generation (or Generation Y) is this month's highlighted generation. This generation includes people born during a baby bulge, approximately between 1977 and 1994. They were roughly between the ages of 6 to 23 years old in 2000 and many are the sons and daughters of the Baby Boom Generation.

Census 2000 information shows that of the 902,195 people living in Montana, 238,900 were in the Baby Boom Echo generation; 26% of Montana's total population. This compares with 28% for the Baby Boom generation. In Generation Y, 123,261 were male, 52%; and 115,639 were female, 48%.

The chart below shows the Montana counties with the largest percent of Generation Y people. Gallatin County is probably on the list because of Montana State University-Bozeman. In the same light, Missoula County has 30% of its population in Generation Y. Find more Census information at:

<http://ceic.commerce.state.mt.us>

County	Number of Residents	Number of Generation Y	Percent of Generation Y
Big Horn	12,671	4,100	32
Gallatin	67,831	21,389	32
Glacier	13,247	4,363	33
Roosevelt	10,620	3,371	32

Research & Analysis Bureau

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Where Are Montana's State Workers and What Are Their Wages?

The chart below shows which counties have Montana noneducation state workers (workers not employed in Montana's school systems). Noneducation state workers make up 3% of all workers in Montana. Of course, the majority of Montana's noneducation state workers are in Lewis and Clark County (46%), with Missoula County next at 7% then Cascade County and Yellowstone County, both at 6%. How do Montana state worker wages compare to private sector and other government wages?

2002 Statewide Montana Annual Average Wages Per Job

Total of All Private Industry and Government jobs:	\$26,000
Total Private sector:	\$24,800
Total Noneducation Government:	\$33,400
Noneducation Local government:	\$24,800
Noneducation State government:	\$33,600
Federal government:	\$44,300

Annual average wages per job vary because of different skill levels and whether the job is 40 hours a week, 12 months a year, or something less. Regular government jobs tend to be full week and full year jobs with the exception of small local governments. In addition, the percent of higher skilled professional jobs is much larger for state and federal governments as compared with many private sector jobs in retail trade services and other sectors. All these factors cause federal and state government jobs to be higher paying.

# of State Workers 11/12/2003		# of State Workers 11/12/2003		# of State Workers 11/12/2003		# of State Workers 11/12/2003		# of State Workers 11/12/2003	
Montana	13,009	Deer Lodge	421	Lake	57	Petroleum	0	Sheridan	4
Beaverhead	86	Fallon	6	Lewis and Clark	6,042	Phillips	15	Silver Bow	499
Big Horn	3	Fergus	234	Liberty	0	Pondera	9	Stillwater	12
Blaine	11	Flathead	582	Lincoln	39	Powder River	1	Sweet Grass	3
Broadwater	4	Gallatin	434	Madison	0	Powell	677	Teton	3
Carbon	6	Garfield	0	McCone	7	Prairie	1	Toole	21
Carter	0	Glacier	34	Meagher	1	Ravalli	58	Treasure	0
Cascade	775	Golden Valley	0	Mineral	3	Richland	22	Valley	84
Chouteau	5	Granite	0	Missoula	858	Roosevelt	89	Wheatland	3
Custer	342	Hill	117	Musselshell	15	Rosebud	9	Wibaux	0
Daniels	0	Jefferson	347	Park	29	Sanders	31	Yellowstone	781
Dawson	208	Judith Basin	1						

Source: Occupational Employment Statistics Program, Research and Analysis Bureau

The 2004 First Quarter Labor Force Trends publication will provide more statewide annual average salaries for Montana's industries.